

In re Appln. of Harvey et al.
Application No. 10/037,547

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention pertains to paper webs and a newspaper.

The Pending Claims

Claims 14-18, 32-34, 41, 48, 55, and 62-94 are pending, of which 14-16, 32-34, 41, 48, 55, and 62-94 are directed to a paper web and of which claims 17 and 18 are directed to a newspaper.

The Office Action

The Office has rejected claims 14-18, 32-34, 41, 48, 55, and 62-94, as allegedly obvious in view of WO 97/30222 (the '222 application). Reconsideration of this rejection is hereby requested.

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 14, 17, and 32 have been amended to recite "wherein said pre-flocculated filler is selected from the group consisting of clays, lithopone, sulfate fillers, titanium pigments, talc, calcium carbonate, and gypsum, wherein said pre-flocculated filler has been prepared by steps of: continuously introducing an aqueous slurry of a non-flocculated paper filler material and an aqueous slurry of from 0.5 to 60% by weight of the filler material of a flocculating agent into a shear imparting device and imparting to the mixture within said device a shearing force sufficient to provided flocculated filler particles of a size adapted for use in paper making without any additional treatment and continuously removing said flocculated filler particles from the shear imparting device, said particle size being in the range from 38 to 75 micron" and is supported in the specification at, for instance, page 8, line 18, through page 10, line 6. No new matter has been added by way this amendment.

Discussion of the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 14, 17, and 32 have been amended to recite "wherein said pre-flocculated filler is selected from the group consisting of clays, lithopone, sulfate fillers, titanium pigments, talc, calcium carbonate, and gypsum, wherein said pre-flocculated filler has been prepared by steps of: continuously introducing an aqueous slurry of a non-flocculated paper filler material and an aqueous slurry of from 0.5 to 60% by weight of the filler material of a flocculating agent into a shear imparting device and imparting to the mixture within said

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device a shearing force sufficient to provided flocculated filler particles of a size adapted for use in paper making without any additional treatment and continuously removing said flocculated filler particles from the shear imparting device, said particle size being in the range from 38 to 75 micron" and is supported in the specification at, for example, page 8, line 18, through page 10, line 6. As the '222 application neither teaches nor suggests the above limitation, claims 14-18, 32-34, and 63-84 are unobvious in view of the '222 application.

Furthermore, Applicants have surprisingly found that applying a shearing force to the slurry, wherein the shearing force is sufficient to limit the size of floccs (which are produced by adding a chemical flocculant to the pulp slurry) to a size that is effective to enhance the retention of the floccs in the paper web, yields improved paper webs, such that the paper webs demonstrate increased filler retention, improved internal bond strength, and reduced sheet caliper. Because the '222 application neither teaches nor suggests a process of making a paper web, wherein a shearing force is applied to the slurry, the '222 application does not render the paper webs of claims 41, 48, 55, 62, 85-94 obvious.

In view of the foregoing, the present inventive paper webs and newspaper are unobvious in view of the '222 application. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection under Section 103 (a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The application is considered to be in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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